

Appl. No. 10/750,016

Amendment dated March 7, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original): A method for applying an elastic member to an article web defining a pair of article web side edges, said method comprising:
 - i) providing said elastic member, wherein at least a portion of said elastic member is elongatable in at least a cross machine direction and defines an elastic member width;
 - ii) moving said elastic member in a machine direction along an elastic member web path;
 - iii) providing a pair of rotatable wheels in said elastic member web path, said pair of wheels defining:
 - a) a pair of inboard edges,
 - b) a pair of outboard edges opposite said inboard edges,
 - c) an elastic member entry location having an elastic member entry location width that is less than said elastic member width, and
 - d) an elastic member exit location having an elastic member exit location width that is greater than said elastic member entry width;
 - iv) engaging said elastic member with said pair of wheels at said elastic member entry location wherein a portion of said elastic member is located beyond each of said inboard edges of said pair of wheels thereby defining a pair of outboard portions of said elastic member and an inboard portion of said elastic member;
 - v) rotating said elastic member with said pair of wheels; and
 - vi) applying said elastic member to said article web proximate said elastic member exit location wherein said outboard portions of said elastic member extend beyond said article web side edges.

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2. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein providing said elastic member comprises:

- i) providing an elastic material web;
- ii) forming a line of weakness in said elastic material web to define a trailing edge of the elastic member;
- iii) cutting said elastic material web to define an leading edge of the elastic member; and
- iv) separating said elastic material web at said line of weakness into discrete elastic members.

3. (Original): The method of claim 2 further comprising:

- i) providing an adhesive application assembly; and
- ii) applying an operative amount of adhesive to said elastic material web.

4. (Original): The method of claim 3 wherein said operative amount of adhesive is applied in a rectilinear pattern.

5. (Original): The method of claim 3 wherein said operative amount of adhesive is registered with said leading edge and said trailing edge.

6. (Original): The method of claim 3 wherein said operative amount of adhesive does not contact said pair of wheels.

7. (Original): The method of claim 2 wherein said trailing edge is curvilinear.

8. (Original): The method of claim 2 wherein said trailing edge defines "w" shape.

9. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein engaging said elastic member comprises holding said elastic member on said pair of wheels with vacuum.

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10. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1 wherein engaging said elastic member comprises holding said elastic member on said pair of wheels with a pair of transfer bands.

11. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 10 wherein said pair of transfer bands wraps said pair of rotatable wheels at least between said entry location and said exit location.

12. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 10 comprising:

- i) providing an adhesive application assembly; and
- ii) applying an operative amount of adhesive to said web of elastic material; wherein said adhesive does not contact said pair of wheels or said transfer bands.

13. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein rotating said elastic member with said pair of wheels elongates said inboard portion of said elastic member at least 50%.

14. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein said pair of wheels each further define a wheel diameter of from between 0.3 meters to 2.0 meters.

Claims 15 – 20 (Canceled)

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